

## *Why I am CSA!*

### *Sister Georgeann Roudebush, CSA*



I entered the convent after eighth grade and graduated from St. Agnes High in three years before entering the novitiate. I received my degree in education from Marian College and Masters Degrees from Notre Dame and Loyola University of Chicago. I was privileged to travel abroad on several occasions: to a conference in Rome and while there to Assisi; to Greece for study via Catholic Theological Union in Chicago; to Israel and Egypt for several months. I have also been to Nicaragua several times and have set up a partnership mission with Waspam. I feel privileged to have learned from all these experiences about other peoples, especially in third world countries.

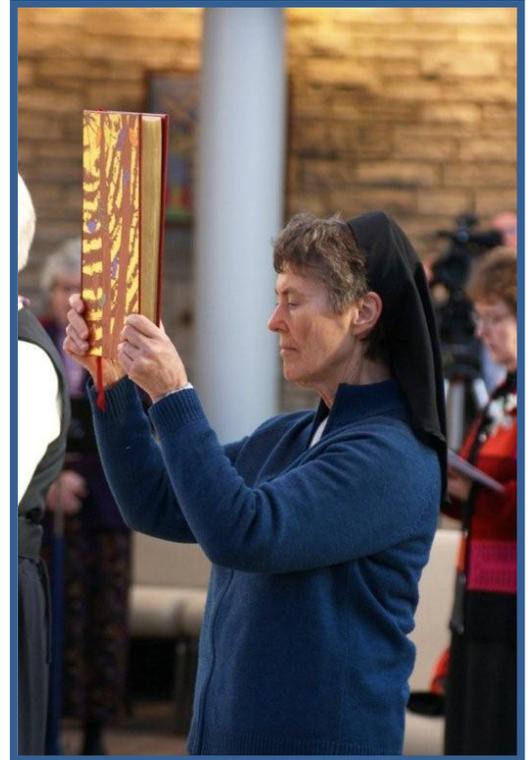
I began ministry as a middle school teacher and later taught in high school. I became a Director of Religious Education and spent about equal time in that ministry before taking the position of Pastoral Associate. I went back to school for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE training) and am now a certified chaplain. I began my current ministry at Hospice Care Inc. in Madison as the Administrative Chaplain and am currently its Director of Psych/Social/Spiritual Services.

The Sisters of St. Agnes, who have influenced me the most, were my teachers at St. John the Baptist School in Waunakee. The life and ministry of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta has motivated me as well.

I participate in the mission of Christ by joyful service in an interfaith setting. My ministry is to be present with the dying and to support their loved ones. The dying process can threaten the faith life of all and I want to honor and respect the dying by maintaining their dignity and sacredness. I feel that I stand on holy ground when I am in the presence of the dying and their families. I do not take away their hope but reframe it. Just as there is peace, joy and celebration at the birth of a child, I try to help the family and loved ones of the dying to open their hands and present their loved one to the Creator or High Being. We are birthing a person into eternity. That also includes labor pains, hurt, and emptiness. But, if we focus on the person who is dying, there is peace and joy and celebration in their leaving this earth. Each death is a blessed moment in time and in eternity and those I serve enrich me. It is truly an experience of transformation.

Each person I meet has a story and an experience of life that is unique and different. My passion is to raise each person up, honor their life's story and make them whole and complete. Each death is sacred and holy; I stand in the background and marvel at the mystery that is being lived out before my very eyes. My heart is touched at each death as I give them back to their Creator.

Mother Agnes knew how important it is to care for the sick and the dying without concern about money, race or faith. I am comfortable going into any room and leaving my agenda at the door as I welcome whomever greets me with open arms and a warm heart. I am very relaxed, meeting each person where they are in the moment, and developing a personal plan of care individualized for that person's needs and concerns. My goal for each person is that I be an attentive listener, a loving advocate, and a quiet presence. My energy is on being and not doing. At first this was very difficult for me since I wanted to fix the wrong, save the lost, and cure the ailment. Now, my ministry is to live in the moment, to respect the person, and to value each life story.



My personal, ministerial dream for the future is to be free of rules and regulations that hinder God's work and presence. I want to be totally free within myself to be and to do as Jesus would be and do. My CSA ministerial dream is to enable our own Sisters to sense the sacredness and to experience the peace during the holy moments of the dying process. My church ministerial dream is to be able to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to the dying person whom I have come to love, honor, and respect.